

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

SECDEF PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

DIRNSA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT:US-GREECE BASE NEGOTIATIONS: HELLENIKON

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REFS: A. STATE 104504 (302223Z APR 76) B. ATHENS 6094
(181345Z JUN 76) C. ATHENS 6110 (181444Z JUN 76) D. STATE
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F. ATHENS 7335 (201702Z JUL 76)

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1. REVISED US DRAFT HELLENIKON AIR BASE APPENDIX CONTAINED IN REF B IS CONSISTENT WITH US REQUIREMENTS AND, SUBJECT TO CHANGES AND COMMENTS BELOW, IS APPROVED AS THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS SCHEDULED TO RESUME 26 JULY. GREEKS WERE PROVIDED INFORMAL COPY OF DRAFT WITHOUT CHANGES DURING CALOGERAS WASHINGTON VISIT. RATIONALE AND FALLBACK SUGGESTIONS IN REF C MAY BE USED AS APPROPRIATE.

--A. ARTICLE 1, PARA 2. INSERT "AUTHORIZED" BEFORE "PERSONNEL." "AUTHORIZED STRENGTH" IS MORE PRECISE AND PROVIDES FOR ROUTINE FLUCTUATION OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ACTUALLY ASSIGNED.

--B. ARTICLE III, PARA 2. CHANGE TO READ: "USAF AIR TERMINAL BUILDING FACILITIES MAY BE USED BY POSSESSORS OF VALID US MILITARY IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

AND BY OTHER PERSONNEL ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION ON AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY OR FOR UNITED STATES MILITARY AUTHORITIES." THIS REFORMULATION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE REFORMULATION OF ARTICLE IX, PARA 2 AGREED DURING THE CALOGERAS WASHINGTON VISIT. IT ALSO EXPANDS AIRCRAFT CATEGORIES TO PROVIDE FOR MAC CHARTER AIRCRAFT.

--C. ARTICLE IV. CHANGE TO READ: "AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY OR FOR UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES INTENDING TO LAND AT OR TAKE OFF FROM HELLENIKON AIR BASE ARE AUTHORIZED MOVEMENT IN GREEK AIRSPACE PROVIDING AN ICAO FLIGHT PLAN HAS BEEN FILED IN ADVANCE AND THE FLIGHT IS CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ICAO REGULATIONS, SUPPLEMENTARY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO ALL AIRCRAFT, AND ANY TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MAY BE AGREED UPON BY APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS." FINAL TEXT IN THIS ARTICLE WILL DEPEND ON RESOLUTION OF GENERAL ACCESS ARTICLE (REF E, PARA 15). IF FINAL SENTENCE OF GENERAL ACCESS ARTICLE IS RESOLVED IN OUR FAVOR, WE COULD ACCEPT SUBSTITUTION OF THAT SENTENCE FOR THIS ARTICLE OR COMPLETE DELETION OF THIS ARTICLE PROVIDED A SEPARATE AGREED TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT IS CONCLUDED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE DCA.

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--D. ANNEX A, PARA IIB: DELETE "HELLENIC." WE UNDERSTAND NEED TO OPTICALLY RELATE RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITIES AT HELLENIKON TO GREEK NATIONAL INTERESTS. HOWEVER, WE MUST AVOID THE POSSIBLE CONNOTATION THAT THE US IS PERFORMING RECONNAISSANCE IN SUPPORT OF GREEK NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS NOT RELATED TO NATO.

2. WE REMAIN EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED OVER THE INTRANSIGENT

GREEK POSITION THAT THE ON-BASE US PERSONNEL LEVEL MUST BE REDUCED TO 1050 AND THAT ALL DEPENDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES EXCEPT THE HOSPITAL MUST BE RELOCATED OFF-BASE. NEVERTHELESS, THE US DELEGATION MAY INFORM THE GREEKS THAT THE US IS READY TO ACCEPT THESE CHANGES IN PRINCIPLE PROVIDED THE GREEKS ARE WILLING TO DEMONSTRATE UNDERSTANDING AND FLEXIBILITY REGARDING THE TIMING OF ACTUAL REDUCTIONS AND RELOCATIONS. FOLLOWING ARE OUR PRIMARY AND FALLBACK POSITIONS.

--A. PRIMARY POSITION. T - US WILL EXPEDITIOUSLY CONSOLIDATE THE BX/FOODLAND WITH THE MAIN EXCHANGE/COMMISSARY ON SYNGRU AVENUE AND WILL RELOCATE THE SCHOOL TO A LEASED FACILITY IN VARLI IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS. WE DESIRE TO RETAIN ON-BASE THE BARBER SHOP, EES MILITARY UNIFORM SALES OUTLET, AND A SMALL TROOP OUTLET LIMITED TO MINIMUM ESSENTIAL NEEDS. ON-BASE US PERSONNEL WILL BE REDUCED BY THE

NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH THE FOREGOING ACTIVITIES. OTHER RELOCATIONS AND PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS WILL BE PROGRAMMED TO COINCIDE WITH FUTURE RELOCATION OF THE ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO SPATA. IN MAKING THIS PRESENTATION, POINT OUT AGAIN TO THE GREEKS THAT TERMINATION OF ON-BASE BX ACTIVITIES AND RELOCATION OF THE SCHOOL WILL ELIMINATE MOST OF THE VISIBILITY CREATED BY DEPENDENT TRAFFIC, THUS SATISFYING THE ESSENCE OF STATED GREEK POLITICAL NEEDS. REITERATE OUR VIEW THAT IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT THE US TO UNDERTAKE AN EXPENSIVE RELOCATION EFFORT NOW AND ONCE AGAIN WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS MOVED. TRY TO DEFLECT THE POSSIBLE GREEK ARGUMENT THAT THE ACTUAL MOVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE FOR SEVERAL YEARS BY STRESSING THAT TWO RELOCATIONS POSE THE SAME PROBLEMS REGARDLESS OF THE INTERVAL BETWEEN THEM.

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--B. FIRST FALLBACK POSITION. AGREE TO RELOCATE THE BEVERAGE STORE AND NURSERY, A COMBINATION WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN DEPENDENT TRAFFIC.

--C. SECOND FALLBACK POSITION. AGREE TO A REDUCTION OF THE ON-BASE US PERSONNEL LEVEL TO 1100 PROVIDING THE GREEKS RECONFIRM THEIR PREVIOUS AGREEMENT THAT ON-BASE REDUCTIONS MAY BE COMPENSATED FOR BY RELOCATING US PERSONNEL TO LEASED SITES ELSEWHERE IN THE AREA. A LEVEL OF 1100 VICE 1050 WILL NEGATE THE NEED FOR AN EXPENSIVE SHIFT FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN CONTRACT MAINTENANCE FOR EC-135 AIRCRAFT BASED AT HELLENIKON.

--D. THIRD FALLBACK POSITION. CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS
CONTAINED IN REF A.

3. COST SHARING ISSUES. WE REMAIN READY TO ENTER INTO A
FAIR AND EQUITABLE COST SHARING ARRANGEMENT. HOWEVER, WE
CANNOT ACCEPT COSTS WHICH ARE UNPRECEDENTED OR FOR SER-
VICES WHICH WE DO NOT RECEIVE OR DESIRE.

--A. LANDING FEES. THE US DOES NOT PAY LANDING FEES FOR
MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT MILITARY OR JOINT MILITARY/CIVILIAN
AIRFIELDS IN ANY COUNTRY WHERE US MILITARY FACILITIES
EXIST OR WHERE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF US MILITARY PERSON-
NEL ARE ASSIGNED. IN FACT, US POLICY IS RESIST SUCH
CHARGES AT ALL OTHER AIRFIELDS AND IS OFTEN SUCCESSFUL IN
THIS EFFORT. WHILE THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT LANDINGS CAN BE
USED AS A FACTOR IN COST SHARING AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS SUCH
AS SOUDA AIR BASE, A PRECEDENT OF PAYING LANDING FEES AT
HELLENIKON WOULD HAVE A WORLD-WIDE IMPACT AND IS ONE WHICH
WE CANNOT ACCEPT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

--B. O AND M COSTS. WE ARE WILLING TO PAY FOR ANY SER-
VICES THE GREEKS MAY PROVIDE TO US AT THE ATHENS INTERNA-
TIONAL AIRPORT. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT DISPOSED TOWARD CON-
TRIBUTING TO O AND M COSTS OF RUNWAYS AND TAXIWAYS BECAUSE:
WE HAVE NEVER DONE SO: THE HELLENIC AIR FORCE DOES NOT DO
SO; AND MOST US MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH USE THE AIRPORT
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SUPPORT MUTUAL SECURITY INTERESTS IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
IN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE WITH THE GREEKS, REMIND THEM AGAIN
THAT FOR YEARS THE USAF HAS PROVIDED CRASH AND RESCUE SER-
VICES FOR THE AIRPORT WITHOUT EVER ASKING FOR COMPENSATION.
ALSO, POINT OUT THAT GREEK STATE AIRCRAFT AND COMMERCIAL
AIRCRAFT REGULARLY USE A LINK TAXIWAY CONSTRUCTED BY THE US
AT SIGNIFICANT EXPENSE.

--C. COST OF CIVILIAN GUARDS. DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT
CALOGERAS SAID THE GREEKS WOULD BE "FLEXIBLE" IN THEIR
PREVIOUS INSISTENCE THAT THE US SHOULD PAY FOR CIVILIAN
PERIMETER SECURITY GUARDS TO BE HIRED BY THE GREEKS. CON-
TINUE TO MAINTAIN OUR POSITION THAT IF THE GREEKS DESIRE TO
ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERIMETER SECURITY THEY MUST
ACCEPT THE ASSOCIATED COSTS AS WELL.

--D. JOINT-USE FACILITIES. AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND
FOR NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE, INITIALLY MAINTAIN THE POSITION
THAT WE EXPECT THE GREEKS TO PAY A PRO-RATED SHARE OF O AND
M COSTS OF US MILITARY AND SUPPORTING FACILITIES IN WHICH
THEY PARTICIPATE UNDER ARTICLE V OF THE DCA OR MAINTAIN
A "PRESENCE" UNDER OTHER PROVISIONS IN THIS APPENDIX.

4. FALLBACK POSITIONS FOR COST SHARING:

--A. FIRST FALLBACK POSITION. AGREE TO PAY O AND M COSTS OF US MILITARY AND SUPPORTING FACILITIES IN WHICH THE GREEK PARTICIPATE OR MAINTAIN A PRESENCE PROVIDING THE GREEKS DRO THEIR INSISTENCE THAT THE US CONTRIBUTE TO O AND M COSTS OF FACILITIES SHARED WITH CIVIL AVIATION.

--B. SECOND FALLBACK POSITION. IN ADDITION TO 4.A. ABOVE, AGREE TO PAY A SHARE OF MAINTENANCE COSTS OF THE RUNWAY AND TAXIWAY AREAS BASED ON THE PERCENTAGE OF US USE COMPARED TO ALL OTHER USES. THE FORMULA SHOULD INCLUDE GREEK PAYMENT OF O AND M COSTS OF ALL SERVICES THAT US PROVIDES TO CIVIL AVIATION SUCH AS THE CRASH AND FIRE DEPARTMENT, USING THE SAME PERCENTAGE RATIO.

5. THE US DELEGATION SHOULD OBTAIN ADVANCE CLEARANCE FROM WASHINGTON BEFORE ABANDONING PRIMARY POSITIONS IN THESE
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INSTRUCTIONS. ROBINSON

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